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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 26 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 17 and 23 January 2000 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Government of the Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 17-23 January 2000

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 1230 hours on 17 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Baibo and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1540 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 360 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0950 hours on 17 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 58 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 44 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Ashbajah, Amarah, Qurnah, Safwan, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1105 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1050 hours on 18 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 90 missions, 40 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 50 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Najaf, Amarah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Artawi, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Qal'at Sukkar, Afak and Samawah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1245 hours on 20 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 54 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 40 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Basrah, Qurnah, Samawah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Nasiriyah, Salman, Taqtaqanah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1345 hours on 21 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi [and Kuwaiti] territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 62 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 40 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Basrah, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Busayyah, Hayy, Jalibah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1505 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1250 hours on 23 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi [and Kuwaiti] territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 96 missions, 56 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 40 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Amarah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Busayyah, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Hayy, Rifa'i and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.